

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please delete the Abstract section on page 27 of the specification-as-filed and replace it with the following replacement section:

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ENABLING CONTEXT AWARENESS
IN A WIRELESS SYSTEM**

ABSTRACT

Techniques and structures are disclosed for implementing context awareness within a wireless system. In at least one embodiment, a wireless device is provided that includes: at least one biometric sensor to obtain biometric information about a user presently holding the wireless device when the wireless device is being held; a biometric authentication unit to determine, based on the biometric information, whether the user presently holding the wireless device is authorized to use the wireless device; a wireless transceiver to support wireless communication with a remote entity; and a controller to control operation of the wireless device, wherein the controller is programmed to change operational characteristics of the wireless device based on whether the wireless device is presently being held. The controller may also be programmed to request access to a network, using the wireless transceiver, when the wireless device is being held and the biometric authentication unit indicates that the user presently holding the wireless device is authorized to use the wireless device. In other embodiments, computer implemented methods are provided that include: sensing that a wireless device has been picked up by a user; determining, after sensing that the wireless device has been picked up, whether the user is authorized to use the wireless device based on collected biometric information; and when the user is determined to be authorized to use the wireless device, requesting access to a network via a wireless link.

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